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To: USPTO - EXAMINER R. R. ShafterFax #: 571-273-8300Company: USPTO - ART UNIT 3733From: MICHAEL BECKDate: 22 February, 2006Number of Pages: 10 (including cover sheet)MESSAGE: S.N. 10/624,066
Response to O.A.

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1842-0018

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Johnson et al.) Examiner: Richard R. Shaffer
Application No.: 10/624,066) Art Unit: 3733
Filed: July 21, 2003) Confirmation No. 5163
TISSUE DISTRACTION DEVICE) February 22, 2006

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RESPONSE TO FIRST OFFICE ACTION

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Please consider the following amendment and arguments in response to the Office Action dated January 20, 2006. This response is being filed within the initial three-month period which expires on April 20, 2006. Thus, it is believed that no extensions of time of associated fees are due; however, in the event that an extension is required, the Commissioner is requested to provide such extension and is authorized to deduct the necessary fees from Deposit Account 13-0014.

Certificate of Transmission under 37 CFR 1.8

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